2. (Once Amended) A readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

said data is coded in units of [predetermined] code blocks; and

said error correcting means corrects [said error in units of] errors in said code blocks;

said error rate calculating means calculates said error rate by [using at least one of the] either determining a number of bytes of data where said error correction was correctly carried out[,] and a [the] number of bytes of data wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out, or a [the] number of code blocks wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and [the] a number of blocks wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out.

3. (Once Amended) A readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein

said error rate calculating means calculates said error rate by using [results of] either cumulative addition of [at least one of] the number of bytes of data wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of bytes of data wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out, or the number of code blocks wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of blocks wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out for at least one code block.

Please cancel claim 4.

5. (Once Amended) A readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein:

said data comprises [said] information [data] arranged in [a two dimensional plane of row and column directions] rows and columns, and further wherein an inner code parity [indicating an error correction code in the row direction of every column] is

determined for the rows, and an outer code parity [indicating an error correction code in the column direction of every row] is determined for the columns and

said error correcting means performs inner code error correction using said inner code parity and outer code error correction using said outer code parity.

6. (Once Amended) A readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 5, further comprising:

[at least one first storage] a memory means for storing the results of cumulative addition of said inner code error corrections and

[at least one second storage] a memory means for storing the results of cumulative addition of said outer code error corrections.

7. (Once Amended) A readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 6, wherein said error rate calculating means reads [said results of cumulative addition stored in said first storage means and said second storage means in a predetermined order] the cumulative addition values stored in the memory means.

Please cancel claim 8.

Please cancel claim 9.

10. (Once Amended) A [player] readout controlling apparatus for controlling reading conditions while reading data from a recording medium, comprising:

a reproducing means for reproducing data from a recording medium;

an error correcting means for correcting [error of] errors in said reproduced data;

an error rate calculating means for calculating an error rate [of said error correction]; and

a control means for controlling a focus of light employed in reproducing said data [reproduction conditions of said reproducing means so that said error rate becomes small] , based on the calculated error rate in order to reduce the error rate.

11. (Once Amended) A [player] readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein:

said data is coded in units of [predetermined] code blocks;

said error correcting means corrects [said error] errors in [units of] said code blocks; and

said error rate calculating means calculates said error rate by using [at least one of ] either determination of the number of bytes of data where said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of bytes of data wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out, or determination of the number of code blocks wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of blocks wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out.

12. (Once Amended) A [player] readout controlling apparatus as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

said error rate calculating means calculates said error rate by using [results of] either cumulative addition of [at least one of] the number of bytes of data wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of bytes of data wherein said error

correction was not correctly carried out, or the number of code blocks wherein said error correction was correctly carried out, and the number of blocks wherein said error correction was not correctly carried out for at least one code block.

Please cancel claim 13.

14. (Once Amended) A player as set forth in claim 11, wherein:

said data comprises [said] information [data] arranged in [a two dimensional plane of row and column directions] rows and columns, and further wherein an inner code parity [indicating an error correction code in the row direction of every column] is determined for the rows, and an outer code parity [indicating an error correction code in the column direction of every row] is determined for the columns and

said error correcting means performs inner code error correction using said inner code parity and outer code error correction using said outer code parity.

15. (Once Amended) A player as set forth in claim 14, further comprising:

[at least one first storage] a memory means for storing the results of cumulative addition of said inner code error corrections and

[at least one second storage] a memory means for storing the results of cumulative addition of said outer code error corrections.

16. (Once Amended) A player as set forth in claim 15, wherein said error rate calculating means reads [said results of cumulative addition stored in said first storage means and said second storage means in a predetermined order] the cumulative addition values stored in the memory means.

Please cancel claim 17.

Please cancel claim 18.

19. (Once Amended) A recorder for recording data on a storage medium, comprising:

[a recording means for recording data on a recording medium;]

a reading means for reading [said] recorded data;

an error correcting means for correcting [error of said read data] errors in data read by the reading means;

an error rate calculating means for calculating an error rate [of said error correction]; and

a control means for controlling [recording conditions of said recording means so that said error rate becomes small] one or more of the following recording characteristics: an amount of light generated from a laser diode used during recording; a frequency of a signal superimposed on a signal applied to the laser diode; and amplitude of the signal superimposed on the signal applied to laser diode; a focus of light used in recording; RF signal characteristics; an inclination of an optical recording medium and/or a speed of said recording medium.

20. (Once Amended) A readout controlling method for controlling reading conditions [at the time of] while reading data from a recording medium comprising the steps of:

[correcting error of said read data] applying error correction to data read from the recording medium;

calculating an error rate of said error correction step; and

controlling[said reading conditions] a gain of a photodiode employed for reading data from the recording medium so that said error rate becomes small.

Please cancel claims 21-23.

Please add the following new claims:

--24. A method for controlling reading conditions while reading data from a recording medium comprising the steps of:

applying error correction to data read from the recording medium;

calculating an error rate of said error correction step; and

controlling filter characteristics of a filter employed for reading data from the recording medium so that said error rate becomes small.--

--25. A method for controlling reading conditions while reading data from a recording medium comprising the steps of:

applying error correction to data read from the recording medium;

calculating an error rate of said error correction step; and

controlling RF signal characteristics of a signal used for reading data from the recording medium so that said error rate becomes small.--

--26. A method for controlling reading conditions while reading data from a recording medium comprising the steps of:

applying error correction to data read from the recording medium;

calculating an error rate of said error correction step; and